

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00  
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 MCT-01 SY-05 PM-05  
H-01 INR-07 L-03 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /061 W  
-----043084 181407Z /46

O R 181337Z JAN 78

FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2041

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASUNCION 0217

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, PINT, PA

SUBJ: GOP UNCOVERS NEW SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITY

REF: ASUNCION 0162

1. THE GOP CLAIMS IT HAS UNCOVERED A NEW EFFORT TO ORGANIZE SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITY IN PARAGUAY, THE "ORGANIZACION PRIMERO DE MARZO". THE GOVERNMENT ALLEGES THAT JORGE AGUSTIN ZAVALA, WHO WAS KILLED IN A POLICE SHOOT-OUT JANUARY 12 (REFTEL, WAS A LEADER OF THIS ORGANIZATION WHICH THE GOP CLAIMS IS THE SUCCESSOR TO OR AN OFFSHOOT OF THE SUBVERSIVE ORGANIZACION POLITICO-MILITAR (OPM). THE POLICE HAVE OFFERED A REWARD FOR INFORMATION LEADING TO THE ARREST OF FIVE WOMEN AND TWO MEN. THE PRESS HAS PUBLISHED THEIR PHOTOGRAPHS.

2. THE POLICE HAVE ENSURED THAT EXTENSIVE PUBLICITY HAS BEEN GIVEN TO THE CASE. HOWEVER, THERE ARE SEVERAL POINTS THAT NEED CLARIFICATION: THE FACT THAT ZAVALA HAD NOT PREVIOUSLY BEEN KNOWN TO BE A FUGITIVE FROM JUSTICE ALTHOUGH THIS IS CLAIMED; THE STORY OF WHERE HE WAS SHOT--IN THE HOUSE, OUTSIDE THE HOUSE, FOUR BLOCKS AWAY--KEEPS CHANGING. THERE ARE ALSO INCONSISTENCIES IN THE STORY OF THE BOMB EXPLOSION WHICH INJURED THREE  
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POLICEMENT AT THE HOUSE WHERE ZAVALA WAS ALLEGEDLY HIDING OUT.

3. WE HAVE INFORMATION THAT FIVE POLITICAL PRISONERS HAVE BEEN TRANSFERRED BACK TO THE INVESTIGATIONS POLICE FROM EMBOSCADA PRISON, REPORTEDLY IN CONNECTION WITH THE ZAVALA CASE. THIS COULD MEAN THAT THE POLICE ARE TRYING TO FABRICATE A CONSPIRACY CONNECTING THE PRIMERO DE MARZO GROUP

WITH THE OPM AND THE COMMUNIST PARTY BASED ON CONFESSIONS  
EXTRACTED UNDER TORTURE. THERE IS ALSO PRESS SPECULATION  
THAT THE POLICE ARE HOLDING AT LEAST TWENTY PEOPLE FOR  
QUESTIONING IN THE MATTER AND THAT THE SEARCH  
IS SPREADING INTO THE COUNTRYSIDE.

4. THERE IS EVIDENCE THAT A ROUND-UP IS UNDERWAY.  
DIONISIO BORDA, HEAD OF THE AGRARIAN PROJECT OF THE MISION  
DE AMISTAD (SEPTTEL), WAS DETAINED FOR SEVERAL HOURS  
JANUARY 17, AND WE ARE INFORMED OTHERS WHO LIKE BORDA  
WERE ROUNDED-UP IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE APRIL 1976 EVENTS,  
FEAR REARREST. SO FAR, THE PRIMERO DE MARZO ROUND-UP  
HAS NOT YET ASSUMED PROPORTIONS AS GREAT AS THE OPM  
ARRESTS IN 1976 AND RUMORS THAT 200 ARE BEING HELD  
APPEAR TO BE EXAGGERATIONS.

5. WE CAN ONLY SPECULATE WHAT THE GOP'S MOTIVE IS IN CARRYING  
OUT THIS POLICE OPERATION NOW. IT MIGHT BE: (A) AN EFFORT  
TO TAKE ATTENTION AWAY FROM THE ARRESTS OF CHRISTIAN TRADE  
UNIONISTS IN DECEMBER, A CASE IN WHICH THE GOVERNMENT'S  
BRIEF SEEMS TO BE VERY WEAK AND WHICH HAS ATTRACTED INTER-  
NATIONAL ATTENTION OR (B) ANOTHER EFFORT BY THE INVESTI-  
GATIONS POLICE TO DEMONSTRATE THAT CONSPIRACY IS RAMPANT  
AND THAT THEY ARE NEEDED. THERE ALSO IS THE POSSIBILITY THAT  
(C) A TERRORIST CELL ACTUALLY WAS UNCOVERED, THOUGH THIS  
IS FAR FROM ESTABLISHED AND AT THIS POINT SEEMS UNLIKELY.  
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WHITE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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